

## REPORTS TELL OF GERMAN VICTORY

Enormous Number of Prisoners  
Said to Have Been Taken  
in Poland.

### COMMANDER IN DISGRACE

Russian Cavalry Leader, Rennenkampff, Reported Relieved From Command—Germans Fought in Attempt to Cross Yser—Reichstag Votes Large War Credit—London Hears of Capture of De Wet.

London, Dec. 4.—The German forces in Poland have turned and are now taking the offensive against the Russians on a new front.

While both official reports indicate that the fighting in this war area is quieting down, there are persistent unofficial reports that the great battle, still undecided, is progressing bitterly.

That the Russian check is complete is admitted by persons who are in touch with military authorities.

Germans Take 80,000 Prisoners. The Germans assert that in the recent maneuvers they have captured 80,000 unarmored prisoners.

In the face of these claims by the Germans the Russians insist, in a statement issued through Rome, that their captures greatly exceed this number.

All agree that the losses on both sides have been heavy.

It became known here early this morning that the Russian failure to surround and decisively defeat the Germans at Lodz was caused by the tardiness of General Rennenkampff, the Russian cavalry leader. He was two days late, reports say.

As a result of not arriving on time the general has been relieved of his command, a Petrograd dispatch says.

Tardiness Makes Coup Fail. The failure of the Russian coup is described by the Petrograd correspondent of the London Post as follows:

"General Rennenkampff, whose late arrival with his army at the appointed place robbed the strategic scheme of the grand duke of its complete success a week ago, has been superseded in his command.

"Owing to this army coming into position a couple of days after the time set the ring of steel which should have hemmed in the German armies entirely could not be closed, with the result that a week of heavy fighting, with the hurrying up of large reinforcements by the Germans, followed.

Germans Turn on Czar's Men. "The Germans, re-enforced, attacked the Russian left on Sunday. The attack was continued with great determination on Monday, the fighting occupying the entire day. The Russians were prepared for this outflanking movement on their left.

"On Sunday these new German forces crossed the Warthe river at Sieradz, where two bridges carrying the railway line and highway facilitated the crossing, and advanced by rail and road toward Lask. The Russians did not oppose their advance until they had reached a convenient locality south of Sieradz, where the River Warthe has a sharp bend.

Good Roads Aid Russians. "From Lask, which is cut by the railway, run also a half-dozen good highways, three in the direction of Panitzsch, to the northwest, west and southwest. They served the Russians admirably, giving them the advantage of interior lines, while the Germans had only the railway embankment.

"The vanguard of the Russian forces met and stopped the advance on Monday, fighting stubbornly the whole day, while other troops were brought up by road and rail to cope with the new direction of the German attack.

Russian Hold Foe Back. "Eighteen miles south of Lask the Russians on Monday completed the good work reported to have been begun on Sunday when they repulsed a flank attack of new German forces, which had moved up from Wielun.

"When the fighting was over for the day the Germans remained in occupation of Sieradz. On Monday the Russians cleared them out and then discovered that among the forces holding this neighborhood was a brigade of Prussian guards with five batteries. Sieradz was now occupied by the Russians. "The German attack in enormous strength upon the Russian left has thus failed.

"The Russian center is still occupied in hammering the surrounded corps into surrender by heavy cannonading, which has already continued for a couple of days."

Petrograd Report. Petrograd, Dec. 4.—General von Hindenburg is still striving his utmost to retrieve the situation in Russian Poland by greatly strengthening his forces across the southern end of the German position. It is believed he has brought six corps, aggregating 200,000 men, into the 50-mile gap from Sieradz downwards to Ozenitochow, each corps extending about eight miles.

These corps must contain a large admixture of Austrians, as the narrow gauge German railway line to Kallach can throw only about eight thousand men daily upon the frontier. It has been working at full capacity for a fortnight, but the great bulk of Ger-

### LAUDS PLUCK OF OFFICER

German Aviator Describes Attack With Bombs on English Troops in Vicinity of Dunkirk.

A German aviator, writing from the front, says: "Yesterday an observation flight took me to Dunkirk, where we threw bombs on English troops that were landing. On the return flight through the southern part of Belgium to Lille we made important discoveries, which, for obvious rea-

sons, I am not able to tell you. Unfortunately my military observer, Lieutenant Sch., was wounded. At Poperinghe we got into infantry fire, and he was shot in the right leg. I was untouched. Sch. turned unconcernedly to me and said: 'I'm hit.' "Hearty congratulations," I answered, "but if you can, keep on taking observations." He did so, and now the brave fellow is lying in the hospital.

Many similar stories of splendid bravery are told.

### AGAIN FAIL TO CROSS YSER

German Attempt Reported Repulsed by the Allies After Most Severe Fighting.

London, Dec. 4.—Another desperate attempt of the Germans to break through the allies' lines from Dixmude to Ypres has failed.

With the weather moderated, the Germans, heavily re-enforced, yesterday attempted to cross the flooded waters of the Yser on rafts. They selected a time just before dawn to make the venture. The rafts were pushed through the shallow waters in dead silence and utter darkness. Each raft carried from fifty to sixty men and machine-guns. A further fleet of rafts drawn by motor boats was waiting on the German side of the muddy waters, but before dawn they were discovered, and at daybreak the artillery of the allies met the advancing Germans with devastating effect.

Germans Give Up Attempt. Despite their losses the Germans bravely essayed the crossing, partially covered by a cannonade of their field artillery, and until midday persisted in their plans.

Several of the rafts were upset in midstream by the French guns and great numbers of Germans were drowned as well as shot. The attempt to cross eventually was given up, but the artillery kept up a determined bombardment of the allied positions and met with a vigorous reply.

The Germans have withdrawn their heavy artillery on account of the muddy country and brought up a new weapon, which is exceedingly well adapted to the changed nature of the warfare.

Numbers of light guns with a range of seven kilometers have been mounted on motor lorries, which have been fitted with large springs, which are arranged in a manner to keep the gun steady while it is being fired and to break the recoil.

The guns may be moved speedily on roads which would be impassable to heavier ones.

German Statement Brief. Berlin, via Wireless to London, Dec. 3.—Today's official statement was limited to the following brief announcement:

"In neither theater of the war has anything of importance happened."

### VOTE IMMENSE WAR CREDIT

Members of the Reichstag Almost Unanimously Agree to Provide Funds for Conflict.

Berlin, Dec. 2.—With only one dissenting vote, that of Herr Liebknecht, socialist, the reichstag today voted a new war credit of \$1,250,000,000.

The president of the chamber at the opening of the sitting dwelt in a speech on the unity and patriotism of the German people and commented appreciatively on the large number of members of the reichstag who are now serving at the front.

Says Japan Sought Booty. In his exposition of the progress of the war the president said:

"Japan joined our enemies from a desire to seize as booty the monument to German culture in the far East. On the other hand, we have found an ally in Turkey, as all the Moslem people wish to throw off the English yoke and shatter the foundations of England's colonial power. Under the banner of our army and our fleet we will continue."

### REPORT CAPTURE OF DE WET

News Received at London, if Authentic, Means End of the Boer Rebellion.

London, Dec. 2.—Gen. Christian de Wet, leader of the rebellion in the Union of South Africa, has been captured, according to a Pretoria official dispatch to the Reuter Telegraph company.

General de Wet rose to fame as commander-in-chief of the Orange Free State forces in the South African war. Starting as a burgher in the Heidelberg command, he later was appointed commandant at Ladysmith and was sent to relieve General Cronje as second in command. When General Cronje surrendered, De Wet was made commander-in-chief.

He was one of the signatories of the peace conference after the war and later was minister of agriculture in the Orange River Colony.

General de Wet at the outbreak of the present war offered a corps of South African scouts to Lord Kitchener. Later he protested against the action of the Union of South Africa in fighting the Germans and took the field against the British forces.

Austrians Occupy Belgrade. London, Dec. 2.—Belgrade, which until the outbreak of the war was the capital of Serbia, today was occupied by Austrian troops, the Serbians having evacuated the city.

Thus, on the sixty-sixth anniversary of the reign of Emperor Francis Joseph, who again is reported seriously ill, four months after the outbreak of the war, his generals report one of the most important successes they have obtained.

### INSURED SHOULD NOT PAY TAX

State Superintendent of Insurance Charles G. Revelle ruled that it is contrary to the spirit and letter of the federal act for life insurance companies to require the insured to pay the war tax on insurance premiums.

### MAJOR FILLS BUTLER OFFICE

Gov. Major appointed Robert J. Davis as assessor and Carl C. Abington as collector of Butler county, in connection of county vacancies occasioned by the rejection of county organization in that county.

### NEW GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE

Judge W. V. Graves will definitely announce whether he will be a candidate for governor about Jan. 1, according to those promoting his boom. It is reported that he is the choice of the Major administration for governor.

### FLANNEL SHIRTED JUDGE

Judge A. M. Woodson, soon to be presiding justice of the Missouri supreme court, appeared on the bench clad in a brown flannel shirt with collar of the same material.

## RATE PLEA RESULT IS STILL IN DOUBT

TIME REQUIRED FOR VALUATION MAY FORCE SOME TEMPORARY ACTION.

### WILL TAKE OVER FOUR YEARS

State and National Commission Co-Operating to Ascertain Physical Valuation of Missouri Railroad Property.

Jefferson City.

There is considerable speculation here as to what action the public service commission will take on the application of the railroads for higher freight and passenger rates.

Outside of statements by President E. F. Bush of the Missouri Pacific Iron Mountain system and Judge O. M. Spencer of the Burlington regarding the general depression due to insufficient revenues, the hearing so far has been confined to inquiries by the commission as to methods in keeping their accounts and apportioning receipts and expenditures.

In dealing with controversies over utility rates in the past, where no agreement could be effected by the parties concerned, the commission has first ordered a physical valuation of the property involved. To follow this plan with regard to the railroads would require much time. The commission now is co-operating with the interstate commerce commission on physical valuation of railroad property in Missouri for rate-making purposes.

It is estimated that this task cannot be completed in less than four years, but the commission hardly could leave the railroad problem unsolved that long without at least making some temporary orders.

### CORPORATIONS PAY TAX

More than 250 corporations in Missouri whose charters were suspended Oct. 2 because they had not paid their license tax have decided to resume business and have paid the reinstatement fee and penalty amounting to \$11 each, which goes into the good roads fund.

There are now 13,213 corporations whose charters and licenses are in force by reason of compliance with the provisions of the corporations registration law.

Of this number, 12,405 registered during July, while the \$5 registration fee was in force; 558 registered during August and September, paying the \$10 registration fee, effective during these months. On Oct. 2 between 1,200 and 1,500 corporations that had failed to register were certified to recorders of deeds of the various counties of the state as suspended.

Since Jan. 1, the corporation registration and reinstatement fees collected and turned into the state treasury by Secretary of State Cornelius Roach amount to \$70,355, about \$6,000 less than the fees collected for the year of 1913-14.

### COLONIZATION MEN NAMED

Gov. Major appointed the following delegates to the National Congress for the Colonization of the South, to be held in Washington, D. C., Dec. 17.

Rabbi Leon Harrison, Archbishop John J. Glennon, Rev. James W. Lee, Rev. William J. Williamson, Samuel A. Hughes, Col. James M. Selbert, Fred D. Gardner, Thomas H. Francis and W. E. Barnes of St. Louis; Rev. John Adrian of Arcadia, E. G. Mitchell of Springfield, E. J. Deal of Jackson, J. H. Himmelberger of Cape Girardeau, John B. White, R. A. Long and Charles S. Keith of Kansas City, C. L. Whitener of Fredericktown, John H. Hahn of Winona and Congressmen Joseph J. Russell of Charleston and Walter L. Hensley of Farmington.

### NO TECHNICALITIES

A most important change recommended by the commission preparing a scheme for new methods of court procedure is that no criminal case shall be reversed except for material and substantial errors, and that all errors by the trial court shall be presumed to be nonprejudicial unless the appellate court affirmatively finds to the contrary.

### STATE AUDITOR'S CLERKS RESIGN

Ralph Beal and Ernest Boyd, clerks in the office of State Auditor Gordon, have resigned their positions and the auditor appointed A. H. Whitney and Ernest Kemper to succeed them.

### DEC. 19 NEW CHARITY DAY

Gov. Major announced the postponement of state charity day for the collection of funds for the relief of the non-combatants in Europe from Dec. 9 to Dec. 19.

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### State Banks Show Decrease

Deposits in state banks and trust companies of Missouri slipped \$15,321,542. Their resources decreased \$6,596,653, and their loans increased \$6,230,699 between Oct. 21, 1913, and Oct. 31, 1914. This is indicated by a comparison between reports upon the financial conditions of state banks and trust companies compiled by State Bank Commissioner Mitchell for the dates mentioned.

The bulk of the decreases in deposits and resources is in the banks and trust companies of St. Louis, Kansas City and St. Joseph. The reports show that resources of country banks dropped \$5,176,771, and that their deposits fell off \$10,598,231. Their loans showed an increase of \$3,106,241.

Of the loss in deposits \$4,192,683 was in the state banks and trust companies of St. Louis. These institutions showed a loss of \$1,476,877 in resources and an increase in loans aggregating \$2,808,347.

The total outstanding loans of all state banks and trust companies in Missouri Oct. 31, 1914, was \$298,328,137. Oct. 21, 1913, the loans amounted to \$292,098,938. The resources this year were \$460,527,322; last year \$467,117,965. The deposits this year were \$318,735,316; last year, \$333,956,865.

### FILES INVENTORY

In the complaint of water consumers of St. Louis county against the West St. Louis Water and Light Co., as to excessive rates and in some instances as to service, the company filed with the public service commission an inventory of its property. It gives the value of its holdings at \$3,011,534.33. This amount covers two or three pieces of property in the city of St. Louis, which the company says is requisite in its business to house employees.

The inventory and statement shows the net earnings of the company for the current year are \$137,370.21, and for last year were \$100,518.82, and gross earnings for 1914 are \$203,158.67, and for 1913, \$158,796.63. The increase in the gross earnings for the current year is \$44,362.04, while the expenses only increased \$7,100.45.

The company has a capital stock of \$1,216,000.

The commission has directed its engineers to value the property and to report at the earliest practicable moment, in order that the application filed by consumers for a reduction of rates may be passed on.

Consumers say rates in the county are too high, but there is not so much complaint about the service. Several county towns are among the complainants.

### CODE COMMISSION REPORTS

Judge David H. Harris of Fulton and Breckinridge Long of St. Louis, comprising the subcommittee of the commission appointed by Gov. Major to suggest legislation for the simplification of court procedure, have completed their report.

Their compilation does not include the constitutional amendments to be suggested.

Several thousand suggestions were made to the commission. In general, 15 "omnibus bills" would carry the changes suggested. One hundred and five sections of the criminal code and 54 sections of the civil code are affected.

An entire revision of the law applicable to changes of venue, so as to simplify the system and not delay trials, is suggested.

### THE LAW GOVERNING CONTINUANCES IN CRIMINAL CASES WILL BE AMENDED

An amendment to an existing statute provides that defendants joined in the same indictment or information may be tried jointly or separately, in the discretion of the judge.

Another amendment would provide that conscientious scruples against the death penalty shall not exempt from jury service when the point is waived by the prosecuting attorney.

### FIGHT STOCK DISEASE

A bulletin explaining the diagnosis of the foot and mouth disease in cattle and the methods that should be taken to prevent and eradicate it, is being prepared for free distribution by Dr. J. W. Connaway, professor of veterinary and comparative medicine of the college of agriculture of the University of Missouri.

### VETERAN RETIRES

Newspaper men throughout Missouri will learn with genuine regret that last week marked the severing of journalistic connections in this state for John A. Hannay of Versailles, after a continuous service of 43 years.

### FIRST BANNER COUNTY

Judge C. B. Paris of the supreme court says Pemiscot county was the first to capture the alken banner offered by the late Col. Moses C. Wetmore of St. Louis in 1898 to the banner Democratic county of Missouri.

### ELKE MUST PAY TAXES

Division No. 1 of the supreme court affirmed the decision of a circuit court which held that the property of B. P. O. E. is subject to taxation.

### GAS MINIMUM PROPOSED

The Laclede Gas Co. of St. Louis will exact a minimum charge of 50 cents a month from its patrons after Jan. 2, 1915, unless the proposed charge is suspended by the public service commission.

### SEEKS REFUNDING LOAN

H. U. Mudge, president of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Co., filed with the public service commission an application to issue first mortgage and refunding bonds to the amount of \$3,500,000.

### REAVIS TO UNIVERSITY

Prof. George W. Reavis, rural school inspector under the administration of Supt. Evans, will go to the University of Missouri Jan. 1, to take charge of the department of farm clubs, which is supported by the United States government.

### IT IS ANNOUNCED THAT W. N. LAIDLAW

statistician in the office of State Superintendent of Schools W. F. Evans, after his retirement from office in January, will become field agent of the Warrensburg State Normal School.

## JANITOR HELD FOR MURDER OF CHILD

SUSPECT WAS IN PRISON FIVE TIMES AND TWICE IN INSANE ASYLUM.

### DAMAGING EVIDENCE FOUND

Prisoner, Who Reported Murder of Girl in Belfry of Church, Exhibits No Emotion When Accused of Crime.

Sacramento, Cal.—David Fountain, janitor of the church in which the body of the murdered 10-year-old school girl, Margaret Milling, was found, told the police that he had spent a year and a half in an Iowa insane asylum, and had served five terms in Pennsylvania and Iowa prisons for burglary and safe robbery. Fountain, who reported the crime, was arrested. When first taken into custody he talked volubly, but under a siege of vigorous questioning by the police and district attorney he was taciturn and sullen.

He was led to the little room under the belfry of the church, where the murder is believed to have been committed and where the floor still bears traces of the tragedy. He exhibited no emotion.

Fountain exhibited a trace of dismay when several bloodspots were pointed out on his trousers. He said he had killed a chicken, but Paul Oehler, son of the pastor, asserted that Fountain had killed a turkey Thanksgiving day and that blood was spattered on his clothes.

### Lodz Taken by Germans

London.—An official telegram from main headquarters received at Berlin and transmitted by way of Amsterdam to Reuter's Telegram Company says that Lodz was occupied by the German troops, the Russians beating a retreat after severe losses.

Lodz, the second city of Poland and lying 75 miles to the west-southwest of Warsaw, has long been an objective point of the German army.

### ROUMANIA TO ENTER WAR

Geneva, via London.—The Journal de Geneve publishes a dispatch from Bucharest, which says that Roumania has definitely decided to enter the war on the side of the allies. This decision, according to the dispatch, is in accordance with the wish of the entire country, including King Ferdinand and all the Roumanian statesmen.

### SIAM ROYALTY VISITS NEW YORK

New York.—Prince and Princess Kampenspecht of Siam, who are making a tour of the world in the interest of education, arrived in New York on board the steamship Minotaur from London, and will spend several days here.

### PLANS AID FOR UNEMPLOYED

Philadelphia.—Steps are under way here by the city council's special relief committee to have \$50,000 appropriated for the relief of unemployed who may be in need.

### KING DECORATES GEN. FRENCH

London.—During his visit to France King George conferred the order of Merit on Sir John French, commander of the British forces on the continent.

Copenhagen.—The ninety-first official German casualty list brings the losses in killed, wounded and missing up to 658,485.

### \$150,000 FIRE AT BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham, Ala.—Fire destroyed the plant of the Southern Sewer Pipe Company at North Birmingham. The loss is estimated at \$150,000.

### TEXAS SOWING WHEAT

Temple, Tex.—Ten carloads of wheat for seed has been sold in this section as compared with the usual average of three cars.

### KOREA FORBIDS OPIUM SMOKING

Seoul, Korea.—The government has suppressed the opium monopoly and put a ban on the smoking of opium. These steps of the government were advocated by American missionaries.

### DISEASE UNDER CONTROL

Washington.—Officials of the department of agriculture believe the foot and mouth disease among cattle will be completely under control by January 1.

### JIMINES HEADS SAN DOMINGO

San Domingo, Juan Isidro Jimines was proclaimed president of San Domingo by congress and took oath of office. The situation is quiet.

### TO BAR WAR SALES TO EUROPE

Washington.—Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska will introduce in the senate a bill prohibiting the sale of arms and explosives by American firms to the belligerent powers. Foodstuffs and clothing will be exempted by the bill.

### SWEDES WANT U. S. COAL

London.—The Swedish state railways have invited tenders from the United States for 130,000 tons of coal, according to a Stockholm dispatch to the Morning Post.

### BASEBALL TOLL FOR SEASON

Chicago.—Thirty-five deaths and 918 injuries were caused by baseball during 1914, according to records made public by J. R. Vickery, who has made a study of the effect of the national pastime on the life and health of young America.

### TWENTY-NINTH INFANTRY TO PANAMA

Washington.—The 29th infantry will be sent to the Panama Canal zone as part of the permanent garrison there, as soon as quarters have been put in readiness.

## LIEUT. GOV. AND 12 OFFICIALS INDICTED

INDIANA GRAND JURY CHARGES FRAUD IN SIGNING PAY WARRANTS.

### 34 COUNTS IN INDICTMENTS

Salaries in Excess of Amount Fixed By Law Said to Have Been Paid—Speaker of House Among Men Charged.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Lieut. Gov. William P. O'Neill, Homer L. Cook, speaker of the house of the 1913 legislature, who recently took office as secretary of state and other officers and members of the patronage committees of the 1913 legislature were indicted by the Marion county grand jury. The indictments charge that the officials signed warrants for pay for employees in excess of the amounts fixed by law and for more employees than provided for in the statutes.

Others indicted were Macon J. Nublack of Vincennes, minute clerk and parliamentarian of the 1913 house; Levi R. Harlin, chief doorkeeper of the state senate; Douglas Bolser, Newcastle, principal doorkeeper of the house; John J. Keegan, Indianapolis, representative; George W. Sands, South Bend, representative; Samuel N. Quillan, Indianapolis, principal clerk of the house of representatives; George M. Rabb, assistant secretary of the senate; Paul C. Hill, Greencastle, assistant clerk of the house; Wade H. Free, Anderson, secretary of the senate, and George Stellhorn, Indianapolis, engrossing clerk of the house.